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RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3528
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AIDAC, AFDROUGHT

NAIROBI FOR REDSO/FFPO
ROME FOR FODAG, GENEVA FOR DWYRE, STATE FOR AF AND AF/E

E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: KOREM SITREP - ETHIOPIA

1. SUMMARY: FURTHER TO CONGRESSMAN WOLF'S VISIT AND PRESS REPORTS OF DETERIORATION IN GENERAL SITUATION AT KOREM FEEDING CENTER, AID STAFF HAVE CONSULTED WITH RRC AND PVO STAFF TO GET UPDATED UNDERSTANDING OF CONDITIONS. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT IN WOLF DEBRIEFING. THERE HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTIONS IN FOOD SUPPLY, BUT RRC ASSURES US SUFFICIENT STOCK IS NOW IN PLACE. PROBLEMS AT SHELTERS HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED BY RECENT SHOWERS. END SUMMARY.

2. RRC AIR SERVICE OFFICIALS REPORT THAT BETWEEN NOVEMBER 24 AND DECEMBER 2, RAF FLEW 64 MTS OF EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTARY FOODS INTO ALAMATA FOR ONWARD TRUCKING TO KOREM. FURTHER, RRC/ADDIS REPORTS THERE IS FOOD AT RRC STORES IN KOMBOLCHA AND CHAFA, FROM WHICH RRC/KOREM MAY DRAW. DESSIE RRC REP REPORTS APPROXIMATELY 220 MTS OF WHEAT WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN KOREM DECEMBER 13 AND SUPPLEMENTARY FOODS HAVE ALSO BEEN FORWARDED TO KOREM IN RECENT PAST, THOUGH RRC WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HOW MUCH OR EXACTLY WHEN TRANSPORTED. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO ALL RRC OFFICIALS CONTACTED IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THERE SHOULD BE "NO PROBLEM" OF INSUFFICIENT FOOD IN KOREM.

3. LICROSS DELEGATE, MR. PERSON (PROTECT) REPORTS THAT HIS FIEL STAFF REPORT THAT ENOUGH SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO SCF-UK'S INTENSIVE FEEDING CENTER IN KOREM IN NOVEMBER TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF THAT OPERATIONS, THOUGH MR. PERSON ADMITS THIS IS VERBAL REPORTING ONLY; THERE IS NO PAPERWORK

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AT LICROSS HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS PRESENTLY WHICH IDENTIFIES THE AMOUNT OF FOOD LICROSS HAS SENT TO KOREM IN THE PAST 2 MONTHS. MR. PERSON REPORTS SCF/UK HAS NOT REPORTED ANY LACK OF FOOD TO HIS HEADQUARTERS TODAY.

4. AID OFFICERS CALLED ON DAVID ALEXANDER (PROTECT), SCF-UK, ADDIS, ON DECEMBER 13 RE FOOD SITUATION IN KOREM. HE REPORTS LICROSS AND ERC (ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS) SUPPLY SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD TO SCF-UK FEEDING CENTER IN KOREM; LICROSS APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT AND ERC APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT. ALEXANDER REPORTS THE FEEDING CENTER SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN SO LOW IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THEY HAVE GONE TO HALF RATIONS, AND IN FACT, RAN OUT OF POWDERED MILK FOR 1-2 DAYS, WEEK OF DECEMBER 3. THIS SITUATION CLEARLY INDICATES A LACK OF REGULAR COMMODITY SUPPLY TO THE CENTER DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. SINCE RUNNING OUT OF MILK LAST WEEK, ALEXANDER HAS COORDINATED WITH ERC TO RESTOCK THE SUPPLEMENTAL FOODS.

5. ALEXANDER REPORTS SCF-UK FIELD STAFF CONFIRM RRC IS PROVIDING SOME GENERAL DISTRIBUTION IN KOREM, THOUGH NOT ENOUGH, WHICH OF COURSE JEOPARDIZES THE SCF-UK'S SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING PROGRAM.

6. ALEXANDER WILL VISIT KOREM DECEMBER 20 AND WILL BRIEF AID OFFICERS ON HIS RETURN TO ADDIS.

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END OF MESSAGE

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